

Influenza Surveillance Report

Division of Disease Prevention and Control

Public Health Informatics

CDC MMWR Week 18:

April 26, 2020 to May 2, 2020

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

Houston/ Harris County:	Texas:	CDC:
Decreased	Low	Low

Highlights

- The Houston Health Department (HHD) conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (week 40) to May (week 22). In week 18, the percentage of reported influenza-like illnesses (ILI) detected in emergency centers in Houston/Harris County was **0.46%** which **decreased** from the previous week. The flu vaccine is recommended for the entire season.

Influenza Like Illness (ILI)

- The percentage of Athena ILI reports **decreased** to 0.36% in week 9 compared to the previous week*.

Virology

- HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical labs. During week 18, the volume of flu tests received increased in comparison to the previous week. Flu A activity accounts for **86%** of the cumulative flu positives this season.

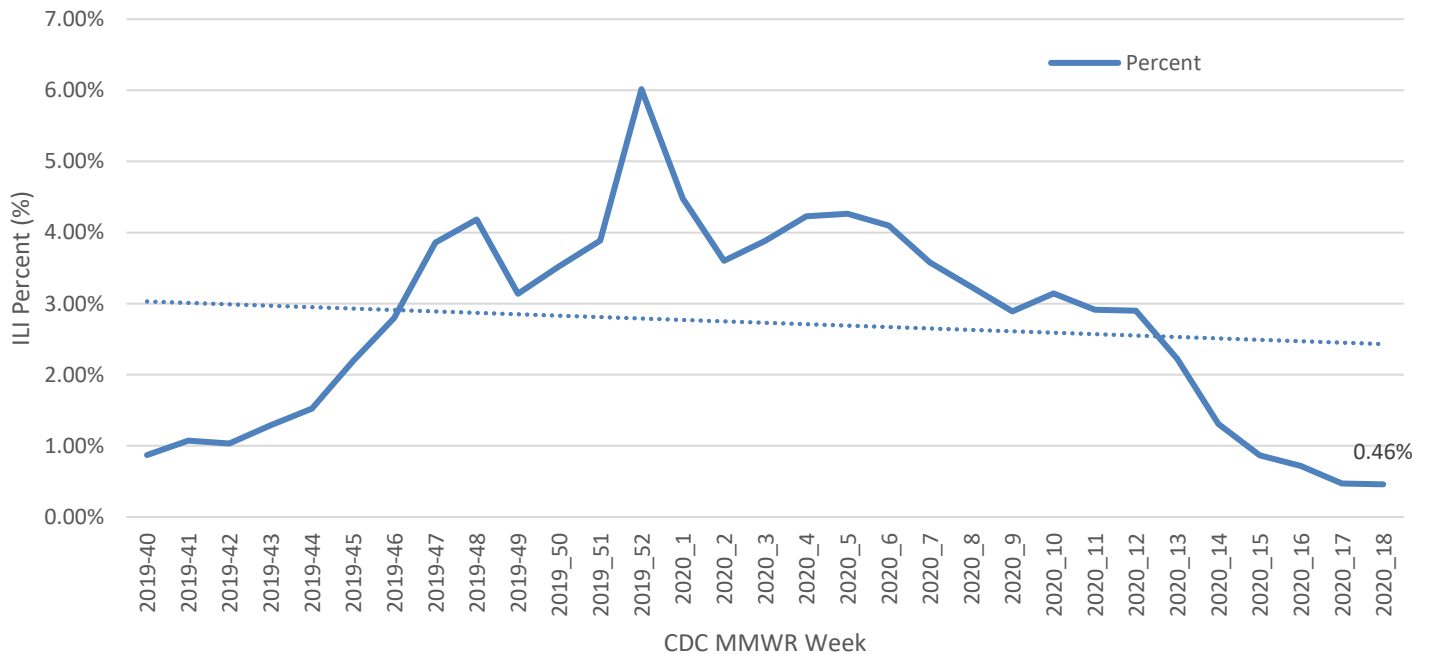
Texas

- The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (1.54%) was below the baseline (4.76%) **. Seven thousand three hundred seventy-seven pneumonia and influenza deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2019-2020 influenza season. No influenza-associated pediatric death was reported during week 18. Nineteen influenza-associated pediatric death has been reported in Texas during the 2019-2020 influenza season***. There was no institutional outbreaks or school closures reported in week 18 during the 2019-2020 season.

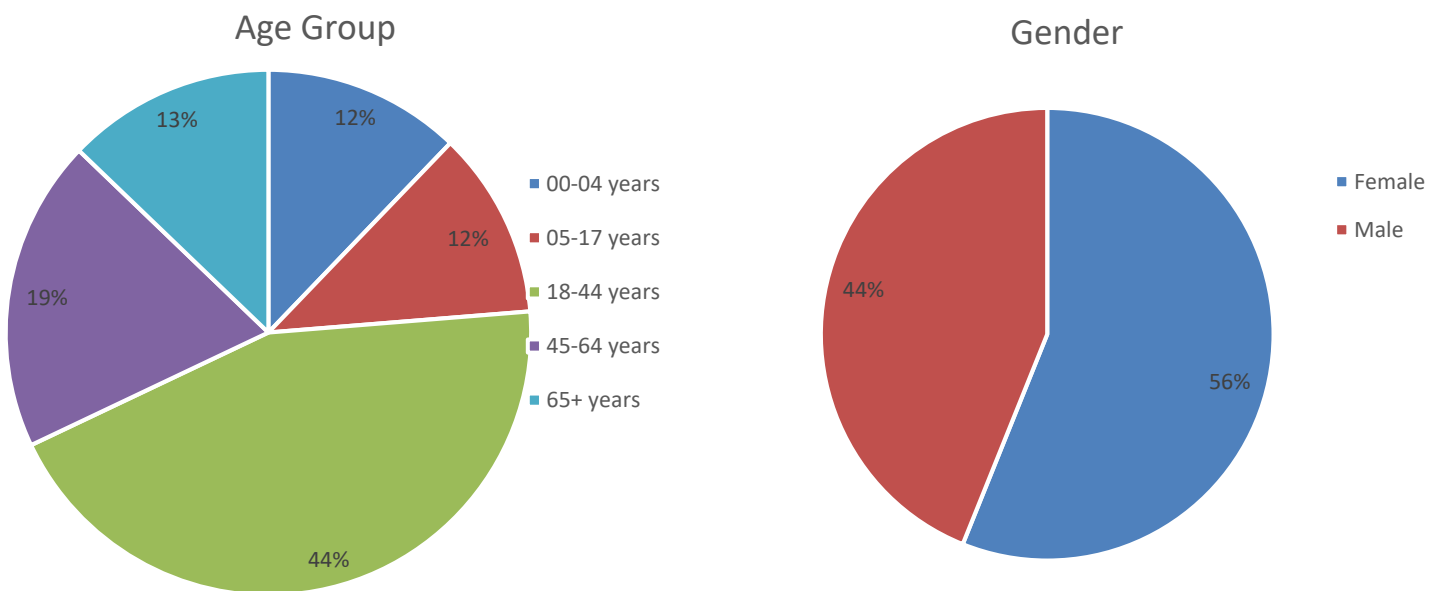
National

- At the national level during week 18, 0.25% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC by clinical labs were positive for influenza.

Syndromic Surveillance: ILI activity trend in 2019-2020



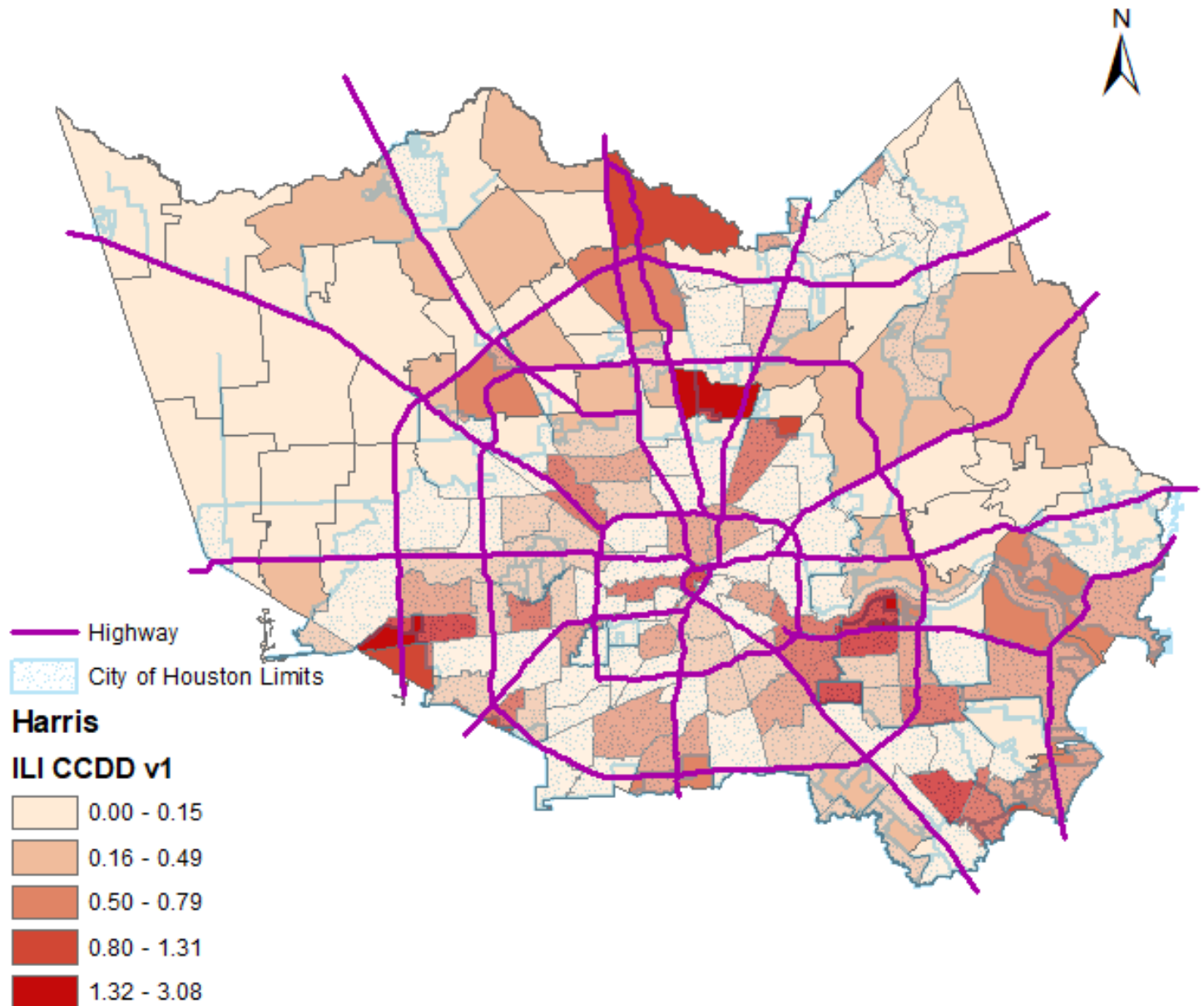
Syndromic Surveillance: 2019-2020 Influenza Season Age and Gender Distribution



During week 18, 0.46% of emergency center (EC) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 312 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most EC visits was the 18 to 44 years old (44%). Females accounted for 56% of patients presenting with ILI.

NOTE: ILI activity is assessed using information provided by the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System and includes data from 90 hospitals and 17 school-based clinics. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's Emergency Department (ED) chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

Syndromic Surveillance: Geographic Distribution Map of ILI

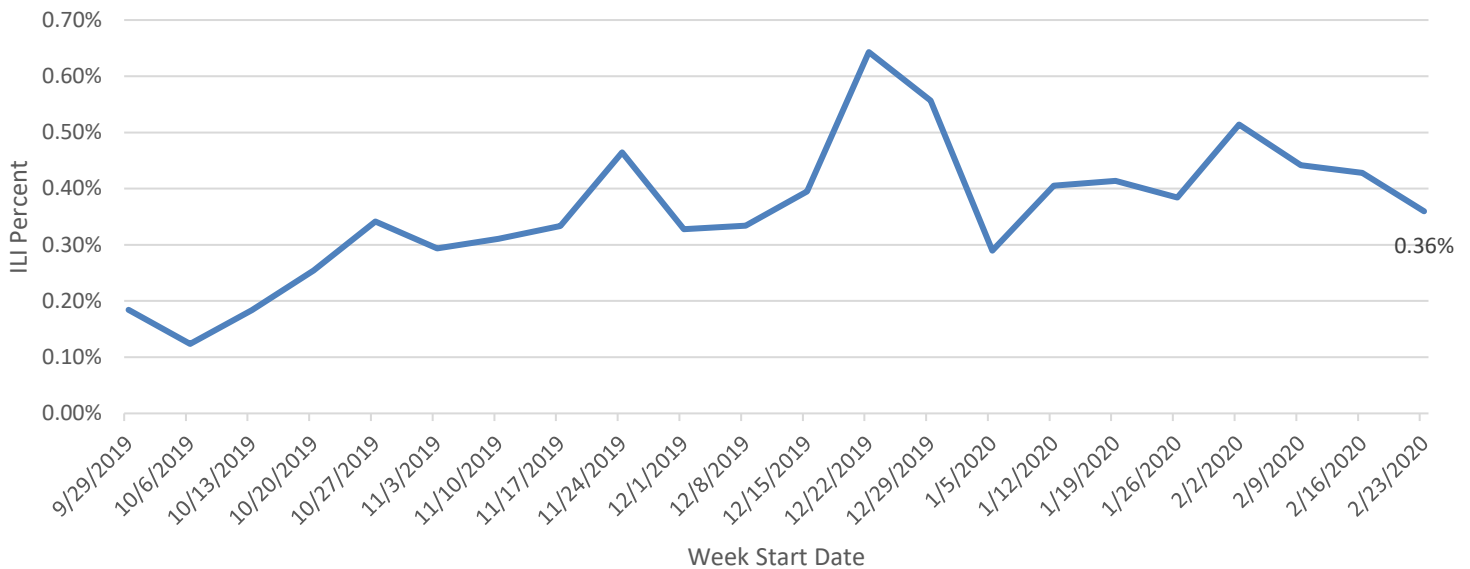


During week 18, the zip codes with the highest percent of ED visits (1.04 or greater) were:

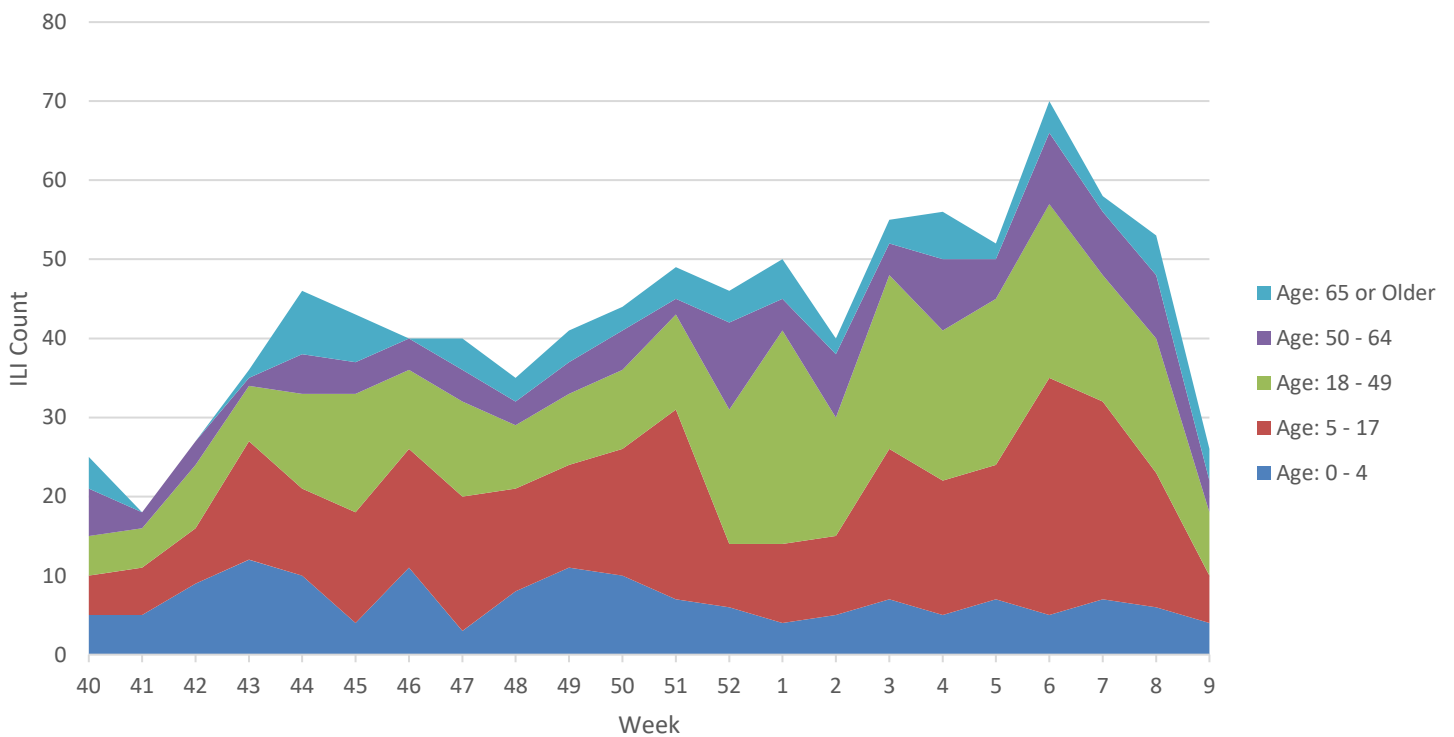
77505, 77016, 77063, 77012, 77506, 77002, 77039, 77587, 77082 and 77062 .

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI report distribution map was created using data provided by the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System and includes data from 90 hospitals and 17 school-based clinics. This map reflects the number of ILI cases from each residential zip code during the current week of reporting. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

Athena: ILI percentage per week from 2019-2020

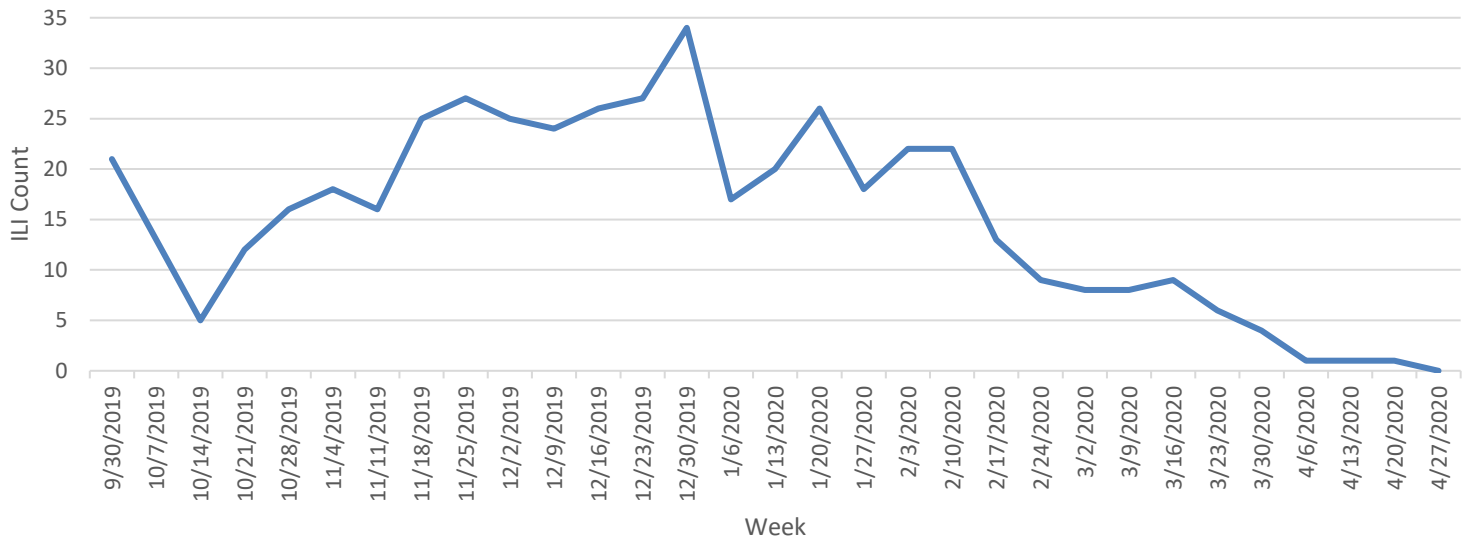


Athena: ILI per week by age group



In week 9, ILI accounted for 0.36% of outpatient visits in the Athena network. The total count of ILI visits reported within the network was 26*.

Flu Near You: ILI per week



Flu near You (FNY) is a participatory surveillance tool that compliments traditional disease surveillance. The count of Flu Near You (flunearyou.org) users reporting ILI in the week of 4/27/2020 is 0. See the last page for information on how to participate.

School Surveillance August 2019 - May 2020

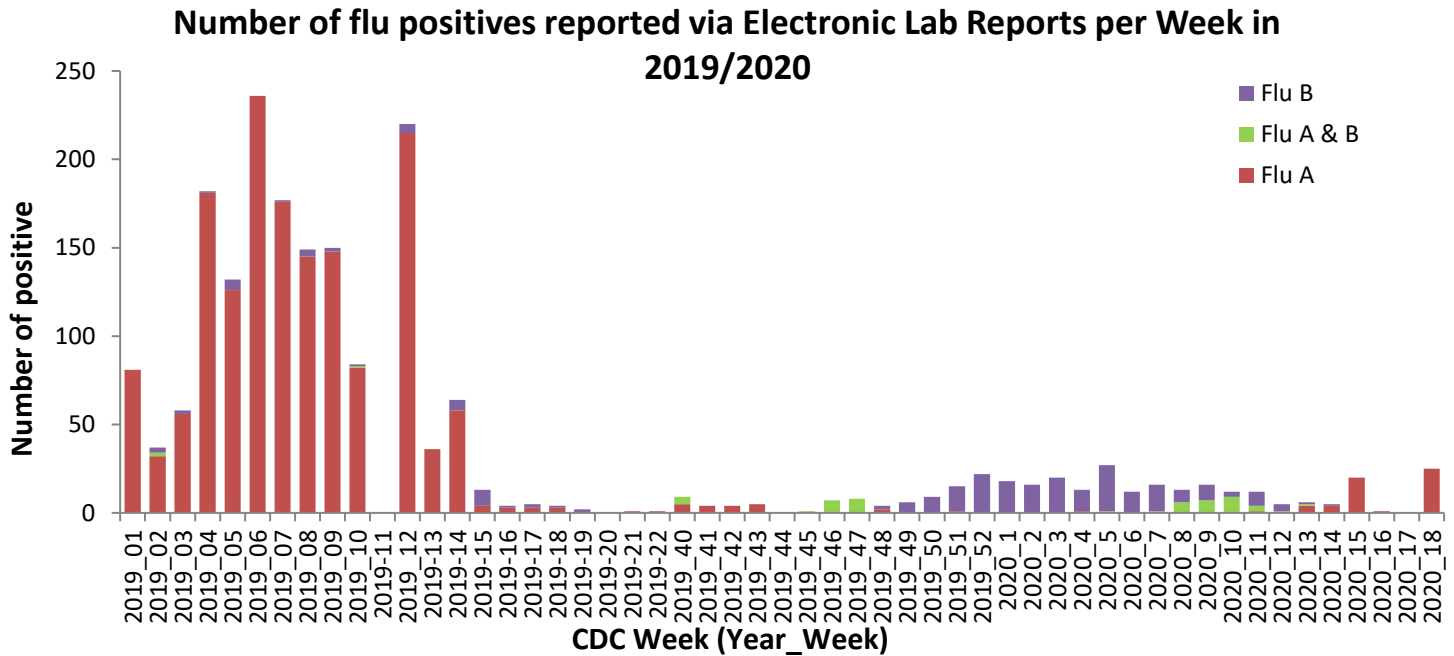
Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type¹ per Month

Month	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed		Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified	Elem Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-level schools
Aug	1	1	100%	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sep	32	4	13%	0	0	0	4	18	2	12	0
Oct	199	44	22%	6	2	1	32	142	7	21	29
Nov	224	61	27%	10	0	1	48	164	21	20	19
Dec	175	57	33%	16	7	1	32	131	12	32	0
Jan	431	145	34%	23	36	2	84	354	29	34	14
Feb	344	141	41%	19	25	2	95	257	23	26	38
Mar	135	44	33%	8	15	0	21	96	10	18	11
Apr	7	1	14%	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	2
May											
Sum	1548	498	32%	83	85	7	317	1168	104	163	113

School surveillance for ILI began in August for the current flu season. In April, a total of 7 cases were reported. The highest number of cases (5) were among elementary school students.

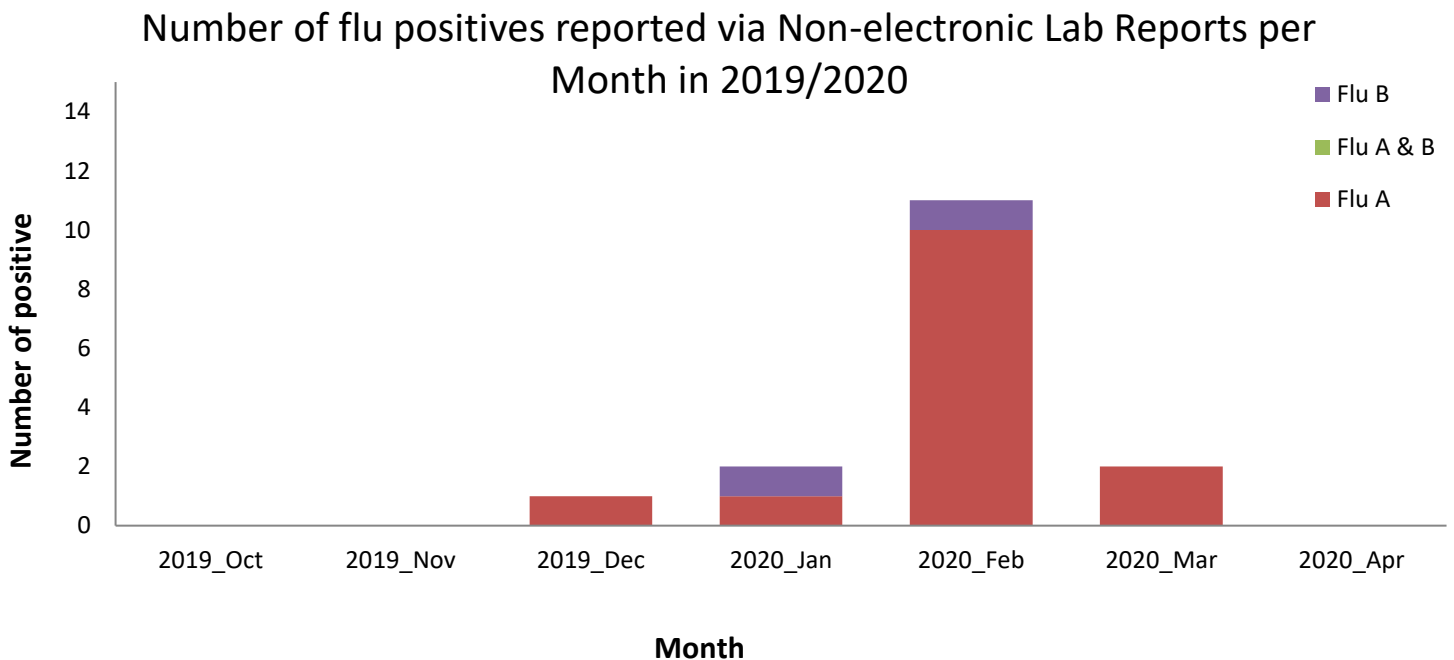
NOTE: Data on student ILI and influenza cases is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent school district.¹ School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the same reporting period.

Passive Viral Surveillance, Electronic lab reports



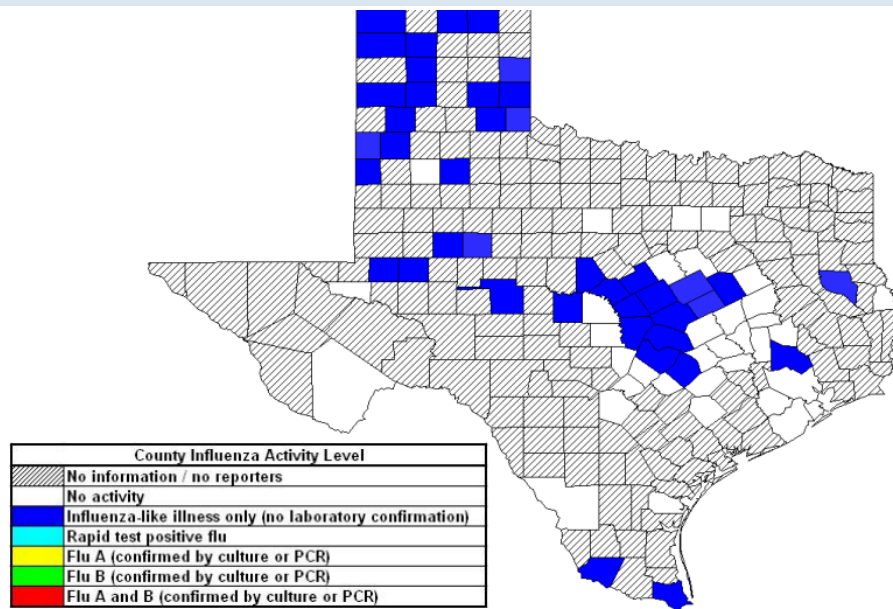
HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories. In Week 18 of 2020, there was 25 laboratory confirmed influenza case****.

Passive Viral Surveillance, Nonelectronic lab reports



HHD received 0 nonelectronic lab reports of flu-positive results from clinical laboratories during this reporting period. February accounts for the highest counts (n=11) of Flu activity in 2019/2020

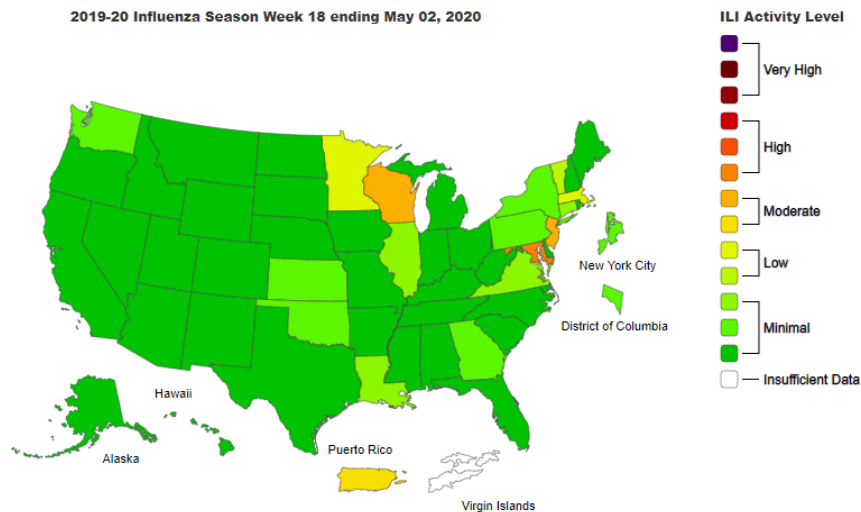
Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity



NOTE: Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity. Most of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown. <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU>.

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

2019-20 Influenza Season Week 18 ending May 02, 2020



NOTE: Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for ILI to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels. Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

The Houston Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the
Houston Health Department web site at:
<https://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology>

Flu Near You is a participatory surveillance (crowd sourcing) tool which complements traditional disease surveillance activities. Registered users can obtain real-time information on flu activity and influenza vaccines in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area. Flu Near You features include:

- Report symptoms
- Find vaccines
- Map flu cases in the Greater Houston Metropolitan area
- Get flu news
- Share on social media

This season HHD invites you to register for Flu Near You at <https://flunearyou.org>



NOTE:

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Houston ILI baselines were determined using the same method as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Regional ILI baseline.

Data was obtained or accessed through the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System. However, any conclusions drawn from use of this data do not represent the official views of any consortium member jurisdiction.

Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/influenza/surveillance/2019-2020.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

**A glitch in the athena health system caused a lag in data reporting from week 10.*

*** Above baseline means the % of visits for ILI is above the region-specific baseline of 4.76%.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>

**** The numbers for pediatric flu-related deaths may change as information becomes available. Flu-related deaths in adults are not required to be reported to the health department.*

***** Electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) was interrupted due to system outages. The actual ELR volume may be higher than shown. Influenza passive surveillance report is based on the case creation date.*

Please note, some aspects of influenza surveillance may be affected by current COVID-19 response activities.

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